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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/728,803

12/08/2003

Kia Silverbrook

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24011

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08/22/2006

SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD
393 DARLING STREET
BALMAIN, NSW 2041
AUSTRALIA

EXAMINER

MRUK, GEOFFREY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/728,803

Applicant(s)

SILVERBROOK, KIA

Examiner

Geoffrey Mruk

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-27 and 29-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-27, and 29-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13, 15, 18-21, 23-26, 30-32, 34, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kubby (US 5,706,041).

With respect to claim 1, Kubby discloses an ink jet printhead (Column 1, line 10) comprising:

- a plurality of nozzles (Column 1, line 10);
- a heater (Fig. 1, element 20) associated with each of the nozzles respectively, the heater having a heater element and a pair of electrodes (Fig. 1, element 24),
- the heater element configured for thermal contact with a bubble forming liquid (Column 3, lines 64-67; Column 4, lines 1-4) and
- the electrodes configured for connection to an electrical power source (Column 1, line 20, i.e. digital signal); such that, heating the heater element above the boiling point of the bubble forming liquid forms a gas bubble that causes the ejection a drop of ejectable liquid from the nozzle (Column 1, lines 17-30);
- wherein the heater is formed by layers of heater material (Column 3, lines 64-67; Column 4, lines 1-4), the number of layers forming the electrodes (Fig. 4, element Ta) exceeds the number of layers forming the heater element (Fig. 4,

element 20a or 20b, i.e. specific doped regions) such that a thickness of each of the electrodes (Column 4, line 14) is greater than a thickness of the heater element (Column 4, lines 8-9).

The examiner notes that Kubby discloses "As will be apparent to one skilled in the art, conductive traces such as of aluminum may be provided within this structure to access the circuit elements formed within the suspended portion 18." (Column 4, 40-43) and "a resistor could be formed at 20a to function as a heating element, while 20b could function as a thermistor to monitor the behavior of heating element 20a" (Column 4, lines 52-55). Therefore, Kubby meets the claimed limitations.

With respect to claim 2, Kubby discloses the layers of heater material (Fig. 2, elements 20 and 22) forming the element and the electrodes (Fig. 1, element 24) are spaced apart (Column 3, lines 61-64).

With respect to claim 3, Kubby discloses the element (Fig. 1, element 18) has two layers of heater material (Fig. 2, elements 20 and 22) and the electrodes have three layers (Fig. 1, element 24, Column 3, lines 54, 61-64) of heater material.

With respect to claim 5, Kubby discloses the bubble forming liquid and the ejectable liquid are of a common body of liquid (Column 1, lines 17-30).

With respect to claim 6, Kubby discloses a page-width printhead (Column 14-16).

With respect to claim 7, Kubby discloses each heater element is in the form of a cantilever beam (Column 1, line 66-67, i.e. suspending the heater chips).

With respect to claim 11, Kubby discloses each heater element has two opposite sides and is configured such that a said gas bubble formed by that heater element is

formed at both of said sides of that heater element (Column 1, lines 64-67; Column 2, lines 1-16; Column 4, lines 56-66).

With respect to claim 12, Kubby discloses the bubble which each element is configured to form is collapsible and has a point of collapse, and wherein each heater element is configured such that the point of collapse of a bubble formed thereby is spaced from that heater element (Column 1, line 27, i.e. nucleation).

With respect to claim 13, Kubby discloses a structure that is formed by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), the nozzles being incorporated on the structure (Column 3, lines 31-35; Column 5, lines 41-49, i.e. conventional CMOS processing).

With respect to claim 15, Kubby discloses a plurality of nozzle chambers each corresponding to a respective nozzle, and a plurality of said heater elements being disposed within each chamber, the heater elements within each chamber being formed on different respective layers (Fig. 1, elements 20 and 24) to one another (Column 1, lines 17-30).

With respect to claim 18, Kubby discloses each heater element is substantially covered by a conformal protective coating (Fig. 3, element Si_3N_4), the coating of each heater element having been applied substantially to all sides of the heater element simultaneously such that the coating is seamless (Column 4, lines 38-43).

With respect to claim 19, Kubby discloses a printer system (Column 1, line 6), which incorporates a printhead (Column 1, line 5), the printhead comprising:

- a plurality of nozzles (Column 1, line 10);

- a heater (Fig. 1, element 20) associated with each of the nozzles respectively, the heater having a heater element and a pair of electrodes (Fig. 1, element 24),
- the heater element configured for thermal contact with a bubble forming liquid (Column 3, lines 64-67; Column 4, lines 1-4) and
- the electrodes configured for connection to an electrical power source (Column 1, line 20, i.e. digital signal); such that, heating the heater element above the boiling point of the bubble forming liquid forms a gas bubble that causes the ejection a drop of ejectable liquid from the nozzle (Column 1, lines 17-30);
- wherein, the heater is formed by layers of heater material (Column 3, lines 64-67; Column 4, lines 1-4), the number of layers forming the electrodes exceeds the number of layers forming the heater element (Column 3, lines 54, 61-64, i.e. two conductors 24 per doped region 20).

With respect to claim 20, Kubby discloses the layers of heater material (Fig. 2, elements 20 and 22) forming the element and the electrodes (Fig. 1, element 24) are spaced apart (Column 3, lines 61-64).

With respect to claim 21, Kubby discloses the element (Fig. 1, element 18) has two layers of heater material (Fig. 2, elements 20 and 22) and the electrodes have three layers (Fig. 1, element 24, Column 3, lines 54, 61-64) of heater material.

With respect to claim 23, Kubby discloses the bubble forming liquid in thermal contact with each said heater element, and to support the ejectable liquid adjacent each nozzle (Column 4, lines 56-66).

With respect to claim 24, Kubby discloses the bubble forming liquid and the ejectable liquid are of a common body of liquid (Column 1, lines 17-30).

With respect to claim 25, Kubby discloses a page-width printhead (Column 14-16).

With respect to claim 26, Kubby discloses each heater element is in the form of a cantilever beam (Column 1, line 66-67, i.e. suspending the heater chips).

With respect to claim 30, Kubby discloses each heater element has two opposite sides and is configured such that a said gas bubble formed by that heater element is formed at both of said sides of that heater element (Column 1, lines 64-67; Column 2, lines 1-16; Column 4, lines 56-66).

With respect to claim 31, Kubby discloses the bubble which each element is configured to form is collapsible and has a point of collapse, and wherein each heater element is configured such that the point of collapse of a bubble formed thereby is spaced from that heater element (Column 1, line 27, i.e. nucleation).

With respect to claim 32, Kubby discloses a structure that is formed by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), the nozzles being incorporated on the structure (Column 3, lines 31-35; Column 5, lines 41-49, i.e. conventional CMOS processing).

With respect to claim 34, Kubby discloses a plurality of nozzle chambers each corresponding to a respective nozzle, and a plurality of said heater elements being disposed within each chamber, the heater elements within each chamber being formed on different respective layers (Fig. 1, elements 20 and 24) to one another (Column 1, lines 17-30).

With respect to claim 37, Kubby discloses each heater element is substantially covered by a conformal protective coating (Fig. 3, element Si_3N_4), the coating of each heater element having been applied substantially to all sides of the heater element simultaneously such that the coating is seamless (Column 4, lines 38-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 4, 16, 17, 22, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubby (US 5,706,041) in view of The Fabrication and Reliability Testing of Ti/TiN Heaters (DeMoor).

Kubby disclosed the claimed inventions with the exception of:

- the heater material is titanium nitride,
- each heater element is formed of solid material more than 90% of which, by atomic proportion, is constituted by at least one periodic element having an atomic number below 50, and
- each heater element includes solid material and is configured for a mass of less than 10 nanograms of the solid material of that heater element to be heated to a temperature above said boiling point thereby to heat said part of the bubble

forming liquid to a temperature above said boiling point to cause the ejection of a said drop.

DeMoor discloses:

- it is desirable to use a heater made of Ti/TiN in integrated MEMS systems (a thermal inkjet is such a system), because this material provides the advantages of CMOS fabrication (low cost and uniformity) in combination with a very high reliability (see conclusion),
- Ti has an atomic number of 22, and
- Each heater element includes solid material and is configured for a mass of less than 10 nanograms (Table 1 and Fabrication dimensions).

At the time the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the Ti/TiN Heaters of DeMoor in the ink-jet printhead of Kubby. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide the advantages of CMOS fabrication (low cost and uniformity) in combination with a very high reliability Ti/TiN heater (Conclusion).

2. Claims 8 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubby (US 5,706,041) in view of Silverbrook (US 5,841,452).

Kubby disclosed the claimed inventions with the exception of each heater element is configured such that an actuation energy of less than 500 nanojoules (nJ) is required to be applied to that heater element to heat that heater element sufficiently to form a said bubble in the bubble forming liquid thereby to cause the ejection of a said drop.

Silverbrook discloses a thermal ink jet printer, which uses heater energy of 200 nJ to eject ink. Using this energy allows the power dissipation to be reduced without affecting print speed (Column 18, lines 15-18).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Silverbrook in the ink-jet printhead of Kubby. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce power dissipation without affecting print speed (Column 18, lines 15-18).

3. Claims 10 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubby (US 5,706,041) in view of Feinn et al. (US 6,543,879 B1).

Kubby disclosed the claimed inventions with the exception of area density of the nozzles relative to the substrate surface exceeds 10,000 nozzles per square cm of substrate surface.

Feinn discloses an ink jet print head having a nozzle density of at least 10,000 nozzles per square cm (see Abstract) in order to improve the resolution of the print head (Column 1, lines 53-67).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Feinn in the ink-jet printhead of Kubby. The motivation for doing so would have been to improve the drop generation rate of the print head (Column 1, lines 53-61).

4. Claims 14 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubby (US 5,706,041) in view of Kashino et al. (US 5,534,898).

Kubby disclosed the claimed inventions with the exception of a structure, which is less than 10 microns thick, the nozzles being incorporated on the structure.

Kashino discloses that it is desirable to have a nozzle plate that is only several microns thick, in order to obtain adequate values of drop velocity, drop size and refilling frequency (Column 6, lines 34-42).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Kashino in the ink-jet printhead of Kubby. The motivation for doing so would have been to obtain adequate values of drop velocity, drop size and refilling frequency (Column 6, lines 34-42).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8 June 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant's argument that "Kubby does not disclose, nor suggests, forming each conductor of more layers than the suspended portion so that each conductor is thicker than the suspended portion" is not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., suspended portion) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey Mruk whose telephone number is 571 272-2810. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am - 330pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on 571 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GSM
8/19/2006

GM


STEPHEN MEIER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER